

Green-Stick Gear Characterization Study

Purpose: to characterize the catch and bycatch of the green-stick gear fishery off North Carolina

Funding: Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program

Partner: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries Observer Program

- Green-stick gear has been used along the Atlantic coast for several years (concentrated in NC)
- Touted as having low bycatch and bycatch mortality
- Need to substantiate and document
- May have potential as alternative to PLL in some areas

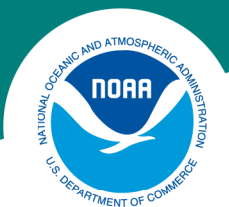


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Study Update:

- Fishing vessels contracted to carry observers
- Vessels fish normally
- Ten trips observed in 2009-10; >176 total fishing hours
- Trip length = 1-3 days
- Catch to date includes – YFT (47%), skipjack tuna (38%), blackfin tuna (10%), dolphin (mahi) (3%), other (2%)
- YFT catch rate = approx. 0.5 fish/hr; success fluctuates greatly
- Bycatch to date includes – one undersized BFT, one SAI, undersized YFT (all released alive and in good condition)
- Data collection continuing into fall 2010
- Observed that tunas caught on green-stick gear sometimes grade lower than tunas caught on PLL gear

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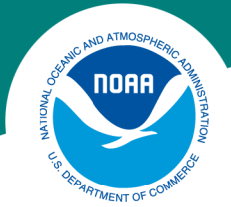


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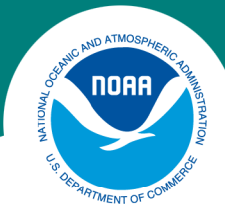
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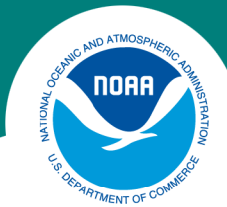
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